

The owner must compensate the architect for his services, his costs up to date, and any damages which the architect may feel he suffers in the matter of credit and reputation. For twenty years it has been understood by the University authorities and by Mr. Nobbs, and acknowledged by us to him, that he was to be the architect of the gymnasium when the building was put up. For twenty-seven years he has been the Professor of Design at McGill University, and I may add that his salary today is the same as was paid to him twenty-seven years ago. It has always been recognized (by me, at least) that in the matter of his teaching and his professorship, Mr. Nobbs was being paid far less than the position called for, though I think, and he agrees with me, that while he has been kind to the University in that respect, the University has been kind to him in the matter of employing him as architect for their buildings.

As I say, Professor Nobbs is Professor of Design, a very important position in our School of Architecture, and if we refuse to employ him as the architect of the gymnasium, after an understanding of twenty years' standing that he would be so employed, in my opinion he would have very just and ample grounds for damages as to his credit and reputation. Professor Nobbs enjoys a very respected and honoured standing among the architects of Canada, and I repeat that were the University to refuse now to keep its agreement with its own Professor of Design, it would be a sad reflection on our own School, on Mr. Nobbs, and on our conception of what is honest and fair. I am quite sure that your own good judgment will harmonize with the opinion I have formed.

Now, as to the suggestion that we call for competitive designs, sketches and plans, and agree to make the winner of this competition the associate architect with Mr. Nobbs. I quite agree with him when he says that the result of such a plan would be wasteful and likely to produce friction. As Mr. Walter Vaughan says, the University has been under contract for twenty years with Mr. Nobbs, and it must, in my opinion, respect that contract. I think our own graduates in Architecture ought to respect the contract as well, and not try to bring any pressure on the Governors to break a solemn obligation. I am sure if the architects concerned really understood the situation, they would not press this matter.

If you would like to discuss the matter further with me, I am at your disposal at any time.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.